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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

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Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 23 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to draw your attention to the following:

On the morning of Monday, 23 March 2015, armed terrorist groups committed yet another massacre in the city of Aleppo when they fired several rockets at the tranquil residential districts of Bab al-Faraj, Bustan Kulayb, Jamiliyah, Barun and Sa'dullah al-Jabiri. The attack killed 12 civilians and injured over 30 others, most of them children and women. There are body parts of unidentified victims at the site of the attack. Public and private property also sustained significant material damage.

This massacre is the continuation of a series of terrorist crimes targeting Aleppo that have been committed by terrorist groups that include groups some have deemed fit to call moderate. For more than a year and a half after the crisis began, Aleppo had stood as an impregnable rampart against extremist armed terrorist groups and had managed to maintain its stability and preserve the security and safety of its citizens, until countries that like to call themselves "friends of the Syrian people" specifically ordered the terrorist groups to target and enter the peaceful city. Those groups, composed of the nationals of 90 countries, proceeded to kill innocent civilians, starve them by cutting off access to food, water and electricity, surround them and use them as human shields. Those groups also laid waste to the city's medical, service, educational and economic infrastructure.

We cannot forget that it was those wicked terrorist groups that attacked the city's cultural and religious legacy, destroying the Umayyad Mosque and setting ablaze the city's traditional market, which had been the oldest surviving market of its kind in the world until they committed the crime of burning it. They also destroyed Aleppo's ancient districts and archaeological landmarks, which are registered as world heritage sites. Such acts can only be described as desperate attempts to snuff out the light of human culture and civilization and to spread the

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obscurantist, extremist and hateful thought of groups steeped in ignorance, extremism and hostility to humanity.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic affirms its resolve to combat terrorism in Syria and fulfil its duty to defend and protect the Syrian people from any attacks against its security and safety. It once again calls on the Security Council and the Secretary-General to condemn this criminal act and take forceful measures, in coordination and cooperation with the Syrian Government, against the terrorist groups and the States that support and sponsor them, in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015).

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 107, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative